



In Memory of Les Ekin

This Field Day Report is dedicated to the memory of Leslie G. “Les” Ekin who served this Research Center and the farmers of this area with distinction and loyalty from October 8, 1956 until August 21, 1993: more than 36 years. Les Ekin, born July 25, 1938, was reared and attended school at Pilot Rock, Oregon. He married Mary Sue Henshaw of Pendleton on December 22, 1957. Les and Sue had two sons: Robert, with Micron Technology, Boise, Idaho and Tim, with Pendleton Grain Growers, Pendleton, Oregon. Les died of cancer September 4, 1993.

Les worked as an Agricultural Research Technician for Charles Smith, Bob Ramig, and Clyde Douglas of the USDA Agricultural Research Service during his tenure at the Research Center. His research was in soil and water conservation and soil fertility programs for wheat, barley and peas in continuous cropping and alternate crop-fallow systems. Les assisted in locating plots, tillage, seeding, spraying, fertilizing, harvesting, soil and plant sampling, soil moisture measurements, note taking, and laboratory analyses on research plots in Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and Wasco Counties, Oregon and Walla Walla and Columbia counties, Washington. In later years, Les helped train many of the technicians at the Research Center. He assembled many years of research data for statistical analyses and prepared tables and graphic presentations of research data.

Les Ekin was a friendly man of high principles, always willing to help others. His contributions to the research program at this Research Center and to the agricultural industry were numerous and valuable. We salute Les Ekin and dedicate this Field Day Report to him.